

ERICKA SQUIRE

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY



*Through an appetite for knowledge and personal application, I mentor, train and guide my students so that they are diverse practitioners and critical thinkers within the field of dance.*

As an educator, I value a communal learning environment. Within such a space; there is transparency and clear communication with students who have diverse learning styles and abilities. This environment celebrates cultural diversity and encourages students to embrace their individuality. I value the development of my students. Therefore, I strive to create a place where my students not only become strengthened technically, but also become critically thinking artist who feel comfortable taking risks, learning and growing in their artistry with joy, honesty and commitment.

As an active performing artist and choreographer, I often draw upon my professional experiences within my classroom. By doing so, my curriculum stays fresh and innovative as well as rigorous and student-centered. Varying the structure of my classes (by including a hybrid of compositional exercises, improvisation and technical training), I present material physically, theoretically, and historically by being an active participant within my courses.

Within the learning environment, I encourage my students to have a sense of urgency, to ask questions and to self-reflect. I charge them to stay actively engaged in each lesson and to become in-tune with how and why their body moves and learns. Each class taught, varies in terms of material but never in terms of my principals – a communal space, rigorous training, artistic development and student-centered learning.